

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A (meth)acrylic resin emulsion comprising:
as a dispersant, a vinyl alcohol polymer having a degree of saponification of from 80 to 95 mol% and a degree of polymerization of from 400 to 2000, and
as a dispersoid, a polymer comprising at least one type of reacted monomer units selected from the group consisting of an acrylate monomer unit and a methacrylate monomer unit,
wherein said emulsion has a "factor a" of at least 0.3 that indicates the particle size distribution width of the emulsion and of which a film formed at 20°C and 65 % RH to have a thickness of 500 μm has a tensile strength of at least 100 kg/cm^2 and
a dissolution of said film is at most 10% when dipped in an aqueous 1 N sodium hydroxide solution at 20°C for 24 hours.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The (meth)acrylic resin emulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dissolution is at most 8%.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The (meth)acrylic resin emulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vinyl alcohol polymer comprises from 1 to 20 mol% of α -olefin units having at most 4 carbon atoms in the molecule.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The (meth)acrylic resin emulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vinyl alcohol polymer comprises at least 1.9 mol% of 1,2-glycol bond.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The (meth)acrylic resin emulsion as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vinyl alcohol polymer comprises from 1 to 20 mol% of α -olefin units having at most 4 carbon atoms in the molecule, and comprises from $(1.7 - X/40)$ to 4 mol% of 1,2-glycol bond where the content of the α -olefin units is represented by X mol%.

Claims 6-12 (Canceled):

Claim 13 (Original): A synthetic resin powder obtained by drying the (meth)acrylic resin emulsion of claim 1.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a (meth)acrylic resin emulsion according to claim 1, comprising:

emulsion (co)polymerizing at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of an acrylate monomer and a methacrylate monomer in the presence of a vinyl alcohol polymer dispersant, which has a degree of saponification of from 80 to 95 mol% and a degree of polymerization of from 400 to 2000,

said emulsion (co)polymerizing comprising:

- i) feeding into a reactor at an initial stage (1) an iron compound, (2) the monomer, and (3) the vinyl alcohol polymer to form a polymerizing system,
- ii) continuously or intermittently adding to said polymerizing system a peroxide.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein a reducing agent is fed into said polymerizing system during said feeding.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the reducing agent is L(+)-tartaric acid, sodium L(+)-tartrate, or a combination thereof.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said peroxide is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide, ammonium persulfate, potassium persulfate, and t-butyl hydroperoxide.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the amount of the peroxide is from 0.01 to 1 part by weight in terms of the pure content thereof, relative to 100 parts by weight of the monomer.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the iron compound is present in an amount ranging from 1 to 50 ppm relative to all the total amount of monomer present.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein ~~the~~ said iron compound is ferrous chloride.

Claim 21 (New): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said iron compound is at least one of ferrous chloride, ferrous sulfate, ferric chloride, ferric nitrate, or ferric sulfate.

Claim 22 (New): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said iron compound is ferrous chloride or ferrous sulfate.

Claim 23 (New): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the iron compound is present in an amount of from 5 to 30 ppm, relative to the total amount of monomer present.

Claim 24 (New): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said acrylate monomer is a monomer selected from the group consisting of methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-propyl acrylate, i-propyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, i-butyl acrylate, t-butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, dodecyl acrylate, and octadecyl acrylate; and

said methacrylate monomer is a monomer selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-propyl methacrylate, i-propyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, i-butyl methacrylate, t-butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, dodecyl methacrylate, and octadecyl methacrylate.

Claim 25 (New): The (meth)acrylic resin emulsion according to claim 1, wherein said acrylate monomer unit is a unit of methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-propyl acrylate, i-propyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, i-butyl acrylate, t-butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, dodecyl acrylate, or octadecyl acrylate; and

said methacrylate monomer unit is a unit of methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-propyl methacrylate, i-propyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, i-butyl methacrylate, t-butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, dodecyl methacrylate, or octadecyl methacrylate.

Claim 26 (New): The (meth)acrylic resin emulsion according to claim 1, having a tensile strength of from 110 to 300 kg/cm².

Claim 27 (New): The (meth)acrylic resin emulsion according to claim 1, wherein said vinyl alcohol polymer has a degree of saponification of from 83 to 93 mol%.